

2012 PARKS COMMISSION ANNUAL RETREAT OPERATIONS DIVISION

Division Manager: Gary Korum

Issue #1 – Review the Blooming St. Paul program and develop roadmap for continuation and growth of program

- Positive Impacts – Blooming St. Paul brings beautification many areas throughout the City of Saint Paul and will expand with the development of the Central Corridor.
- Negative Impacts – Current funding is supported through ROW and does not allow for any Blooming St. Paul initiatives on general park land.
- Recommendation – If public sentiment favors program, work with OFS, Finance & Planning and other City Departments to identify necessary resources to continue and grow program.
- *Commission Assistance – Use the Commission to vet out public review of the program.*

Issue #2 – Review Asset Management Data for newly constructed parks and amenities, to include such items as fountains, artificial turf fields, play areas, environmental areas, etc. and develop cost analysis and funding needs.

- Positive Impacts – Review process will accurately assess the resources needed to facilitate the continued operations of these sites and amenities.
- Negative Impacts – Failure to complete this process will not allow the Department to seek the necessary increased maintenance funding needs that continue to grow.
- Recommendation – Use data from process to position Department funding requests, beginning with 2013 budget cycle.
- *Commission Assistance – Support the findings of the review.*

Issue #3 – Assess EAB resource needs required for continued operations along with results from current MDA studies.

- Positive Impacts – With the projected spread of EAB, an accurate assessment of resources necessary to fight the spread are essential to the program.
- Negative Impacts – Equipment and staffing resources are scarce. Without the assessment, funding needs may not be met, equipment orders may be delayed and the infestation could spread at a much greater pace.
- Recommendation – Use data from assessment to seek increased funding through OFS, ROW and State grants.
- *Commission Assistance – Support assessment findings and funding recommendations.*

2011 Operations Division Accomplishments

Building Trades Staff:

- Completed the installation of a generator system for the second Emergency Management Mass Care Shelter at Oxford Community Center.
- Continued pursuit of energy conversions, completing 11 recreation center facilities for lighting retrofits.
- Converted 4 recreation center HVAC systems to automation service, saving call-out costs and allowing staff to trouble-shoot systems from remote locations.
- Successfully implemented plans and procedures for pre disaster and post clean up for the Mississippi River spring flood event.

Equipment Services:

- Implemented the use of an Electric delivery van, used by Storeroom staff.

Parks Permit Office:

- Fossil and Ice-Climbing permits are now available thru on-line permitting.
- New this year – issued 37 permits for three main summer holiday weekends, increasing revenue by \$5,200.00

Parks Maintenance:

- Added recycling containers at all Regional and selected high-use parks in coordination with Ramsey County grant program.

PED/Abatement/Contract Services:

- The PED crew provided property oversight, tree trimming, grass cutting, snow plowing and routine maintenance services for approximately 428 PED properties across the city.
- The Summary abatement crew responded to 6,105 complaints and provided approximately 4,297 property abatements for City of St. Paul Code Enforcement. Also performed approximately 250 weekly trash pick-ups from properties across St. Paul.

Recreation Maintenance:

- Completed safety audits for all play areas and updated the CIB ranking system.
- Completed softball field renovation @ Scheffer, including install of player bench safety fencing.
- Partnered with the St. Paul Saints and Ryan Companies to renovate the baseball field at Palace along with painting of benches, mulching gardens and adding plants to various beds.
- Continued indoor maintenance equipment replacement program to increase efficiencies and reduce overall maintenance costs.
- Worked with Support Maintenance to improve 38 athletic fields.

Support Maintenance:

- Completed internal customer service survey on services provided in an effort to identify necessary changes or areas needing improvements.
- Completed aeration of 38 recreation athletic turf sites in an effort to revitalize turf on our athletic fields. Thirteen of these sites were seeded along with the aeration process.

Natural Resources Section:

- Completed the rain garden project for 1100 N. Hamline facility.
- Awarded Sustainable St. Paul award for City Staff
- The Arts & Garden Program Successfully completed year five of the Horticulture Academy. In 2011, the average post test grade was 92%, and increase of over 30% from the pre test. There was a 98% passing rate.
- The seventh annual Blooming Saint Paul awards were held with 120 nominations and 23 awards being given.
- Coordinated more than 400 volunteers who provided more than 4,000 hours of service to maintain 70 garden sites throughout the city.
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- Environmental Education Program involved over 1100 participants in 2011.
- Forestry staff assisted Minneapolis with Storm recovery – May tornado
- Awarded Sustainable St. Paul award for City Staff
- Removal of 1200+ trees associated with EAB, to include diseased, structured removal and RSVP projects.